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16. — *A Dictionary of the English Language*, by JOSEPH E. WORCESTER, LL.D. 4to. [Specimen Sheets.]

THIS work will probably appear before our next issue. We have examined a sufficient portion of it to feel sure that it will more than meet the public expectation. The etymological department gives not only the author's mature opinion in each case, but on controverted points the alternative opinions. The definitions are as full, precise, and discriminating as the capacity of our language will suffer them to be, and, wherever practicable, are copiously and pertinently illustrated by quotations from standard authors. The number of technical words defined is so large and various, that the work will serve all the ordinary purposes of a dictionary of each separate science and art, — experts having been, as we are informed, largely employed in this part of the enterprise. Wood-cuts are introduced wherever the verbal definition would be inadequate. The various valuable matter contained in the Introduction and Appendix will supply the place of several separate manuals. In fine, the work must take its unchallenged place as far in advance of any previous attempt in this direction, and as necessarily the standard dictionary of the English language, until its accessions and changes at some very distant day shall demand that the same labor be renewed.

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17. — *Rambles about Portsmouth. Sketches of Persons, Localities, and Incidents of Two Centuries. Principally from Traditions and Unpublished Documents.* By CHARLES W. BREWSTER. Portsmouth: C. W. Brewster and Son. 1859.

THIS is the last day of grace for much of the unpublished history of New England. Until the Revolution, or rather until the era of steam-travel and rapid emigration, most of our old families remained near the homes of their ancestors, and treasured up the accumulating mass of local and biographical tradition. Frequent change of residence, remoter intermarriages than were wont often to take place, the tumultuous press of business, and the incessant inpouring of intelligence from the whole civilized world, have made the present generation indifferent, for the most part, to vestiges and reminiscences of the past. The trustees of this description of oral history gradually disappear from the ranks of the living, leaving few who care to succeed to the inheritance which they have preserved as it came to them, and enriched by the three or four score years of their own experience. Portsmouth,

New Hampshire, was the residence, in the last and the preceding century, of many men of mark and families of distinction, and the theatre of not a few events that formed a large part of the history of the times, as well as of numerous incidents and transactions, in themselves of less importance, which yet throw essential light upon that history. It abounds too in ancient sites and dwellings, which have each a story of its own. Mr. Brewster, a native of Portsmouth, and of an old Portsmouth family, has inherited much of this local lore, has made diligent inquiry and research among its still remaining memorials and depositories, and has compiled the results of what he has received, heard, and learned, in this singularly rich, entertaining, and instructive volume. The Penhallow, Cutts, Wentworth, Sherburne, Livermore, and Langdon families; the somewhat curious ecclesiastical history of the town; the reminiscences of a peculiarly luxurious and ostentatious series of office-holders under the Crown, and of high life in the *quasi* court-circle; the characteristic anecdotes attached to well-known names; the eccentric personages whose memory yet lingers about their former haunts,—these and other similar themes are given, not by any predetermined method, but in a series of Chapters or “Rambles,” each of which has a unity of its own, representing some single group, or train of events, or series of family portraits. We have thus a volume much more piquant and interesting than a formal history could have been, and at the same time a compend of materials, many of which must else have been irrevocably lost, from which some future author may compile the annals of the town. The work is admirably done, and, alike in its literary skill and its mechanical execution, does great credit to the ability, accuracy, and taste of its esteemed author.

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- 18.—1. *Poems*. By FRANCES ANNE KEMBLE. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1859. 16mo. pp. 312.
  2. *Rustic Rhymes*. By the Author of “Winter Studies in the Country.” Philadelphia: Parry and McMillan. 1859. 12mo. pp. 113.
  3. *The Queen’s Domain; and other Poems*. By WILLIAM WINTER. Boston: E. O. Libby & Co. 1859. 16mo. pp. 144.
  4. *The Ballad of Babie Bell, and other Poems*. By THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH. New York: Rudd and Carleton. 1859. 12mo. pp. 117.
  5. *Poems*. By ALBERT LAIGHTON. Boston: Brown, Taggard, and Chase. 1859. 16mo. pp. 135.

WE have named these volumes together, not because they have aught in common except their birth-season and their just claim upon our favor-